GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2009
VACANT POSTS UNDER CHCS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inadequate rural health infrastructure and a large number of sanctioned posts are lying vacant at Community Health Centres (CHCs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring reforms in medical education;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the hurdles for the effective Implementation of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to (e): The rural health infrastructure in the country comprises 1,46,036 sub centers, 23,458 PHCs and 4,276 CHCs. In some states more facilities are needed to improve the services to citizens. As per the Rural Health Statistics Bulletin (March 2008), there are 4068 vacant positions of specialists and 661 vacant positions of paramedics at CHCs in various states. Under NRHM the rural health infrastructure is being expanded in all the states and additional health human resources have been positioned. States have reported positioning of 2344 specialists at CHCs and 13278 paramedics on contract at various levels.

States are also improving the availability of health human resources through multi-skilling training and training in short courses. Incentives have been provided by various states to service providers to encourage them to work in remote rural areas. The gaps in availability of health HR is also being compensated through mainstreaming of AYUSH providers, block pooling of service providers, engagement with non-governmental providers through contracting in for services.

The Government has reviewed and amended the norms in medical education with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio, etc. which will facilitate setting up of more medical colleges and also enhance the intake in Post Graduate Courses & Super-Specialities.

The Government is providing technical assistance to the states to overcome the hurdles for the effective implementation of the NRHM. Regular states visits are undertaken and workshops convened to handhold the implementation of key interventions is under the NRHM.